



## Fact Sheet:



# Driving Under-the-Influence (DUI) Statistics

## 2004 CALIFORNIA STATE STATISTICS

- 4,120 people in California were killed in traffic crashes. 1,643 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol; this represents approximately 40% of all traffic fatalities in the State.
- There were 3,727 fatal crashes in California.
- Of the 4,120 people killed in alcohol-related accidents, 1,889 were drivers; 976 were passengers; 684 were pedestrians, 432 were motorcycle riders; 110 were bicycle riders; 29 unknown.
- There were a total of 177,056 DUI arrests.

## California Trends

- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities decreased 21% from 1993 to 1996. Although alcohol involvement in traffic accidents has declined over the past 10 years, 31.6% of all traffic fatalities were still alcohol involved.
- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities have dropped by 57.3% since 1988.

## 2004 NATIONAL STATISTICS

- 42,636 people were killed in traffic crashes. 16,694 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol. (39% of all traffic deaths.)
- Over 248,000 people suffered injuries in alcohol-related collisions.
- In 2004, a total of 442 (21%) of the fatalities among children age 14 and younger occurred in crashes involving alcohol. Of those 442 fatalities, approximately half (220) of those were passengers in vehicles with drivers who had been drinking. An additional 115 children

were killed as passengers in vehicles with driver who had not been drinking.

## Drivers

- The highest percentage of drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher was for drivers ages 21 to 24 (32%).
- Safety belts were used by only 28% of fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher.
- Nearly three-quarters of drivers convicted of driving while impaired are either frequent heavy drinkers or alcoholics.
- For every 100,000 licensed drivers, young drinking drivers are involved in fatal crashes at twice the rate of drivers aged 21 and older.

## Crashes

- The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than 3 times as high at night as during the day (60% vs. 18%).
- For all crashes, the alcohol involvement rate was 5% during the week and 12% during the weekend.
- 30% of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 51% on weekends.
- Crashes involving men are more likely to be alcohol-related than those involving women. Alcohol involvement is highest for men aged 21-34.
- The number of persons injured in alcohol-involved crashes increased by 0.7% in 2004, following a decrease of 2.2% in 2003, the first decrease in the last five years.

## Youth

- The number of drunk drivers under the age of 21 who were involved in fatal crashes dropped by 62% from 1982.
- More than two-thirds of the youth motor vehicle occupant fatalities did not use a seat belt or motorcycle helmet.
- Most youth motor vehicle fatalities occurred in June and July.
- 77% of youth alcohol-related fatalities were males.

## Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- The average BAC level of a convicted DUI offender, as reported by law enforcement on APS forms, was .161% in 2003.
- The illegal BAC limit for commercial drivers is .04 percent.
- 34 states and the District of Columbia have a .08 BAC per se law. President Clinton signed legislation that will require each state to pass .08 BAC limit laws by October 2003 or lose a portion of their federal highway funds.
- Even at blood alcohol concentration levels as low as .02 percent, alcohol affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of crash begins to increase significantly at .05 percent BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08 percent BAC.
- 31% of all traffic fatalities occurred in crashes where the driver or non-occupant had a BAC of 0.10 or greater.
- 22% of all drivers and 14% of drivers under 21 involved in fatal crashes had a BAC result of .15 or higher.
- High BAC drivers (.15 or above) accounted for more than half of all the alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

## Trends

- Since 1986, the number of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities has been slowly decreasing.
- Alcohol related motor vehicle fatalities for the population aged 15-20 years decreased by almost 59%, since 1982.
- The DUI arrest rate declined slightly in 2004, remaining relatively unchanged in the last four years, and represents 23% reduction from the arrest rate in 1994.
- The average age of an arrested DUI offender in 2004 was 33.2 years. Less than 1% of arrested DUI offenders are juveniles (under age 18).

## Administrative Drivers License Revocation

- In 1990, California implemented a mandatory driver's license suspension law for drunk drivers, also known as "admin per se."
- In Fiscal Year 2004-2005, 184,324 licenses were suspended as a result of "admin per se".